



Sam Brownback

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BROWNBACK CALLS FOR DECISIVE ACTION TO REMOVE SADDAM FROM POWER

WASHINGTON -- U.S. Sen. Sam Brownback, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee on Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs, held a hearing today on 'U.S. Policy Towards Iraq: Mobilizing the Opposition'.

"Recently, the Iraqi National Congress (INC) Executive Committee was in Washington, and I was encouraged to see them unified with a single message," Brownback said. "We, the United States, need to put all of our power and prestige behind one unified group which could then present a real threat to Saddam Hussein on the ground. We are now well on our way to having that group.

"I am pleased the administration has announced that a drawdown under the Iraq Liberation Act is going to begin. These people, all the various Iraqi opposition groups – Kurd, Sunni, Shiites and others – that have united under the INC, need to see some tangible support on the ground. These people are risking their lives to oppose a vicious dictator. They are the fighting forces in Iraq that are suffering under Saddam right now, and they are the people who risk the most in associating themselves with our policy goal of removing Saddam Hussein.

"Surely eight-plus years of living with Saddam have proven that we can't rely on some magic bullet. We need a strategy, and we need proven allies on the ground. We need to know what concrete steps the administration will be taking to help the opposition – not with fax machines and printers and conferences, but with tangible non-lethal and lethal assistance and training. We need to get moving. I don't want Saddam to outlast another American president," Brownback said.

Witnesses at the hearing include the Honorable Beth Jones, Assistant Secretary of State; Mr. Ahmed Chalabi, from the INC; Dr. Patrick Clawson, of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy; and Mrs. Rend Rahim Francke, from Iraq Foundation.